

The constitution of:

The Muslim Students Association at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Article 1: Name

This organization shall be known as The Muslim Students Association at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and shall be abbreviated as UTK MSA when space or context dictate.

Article 2: Mission

The Muslim Student Association at the University of Tennessee serves to educate students and faculty through recreational activities as well as academic events. In this way, we strive to establish a bridge of understanding between people of all backgrounds, races, and creeds.

Article 3: Members

All undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville are eligible for membership. Members must notify the Secretary-Historian in order to be listed on the official roster. Only members on the official roster are eligible to vote on organization business.

Article 4: Non-Discrimination

UTK MSA shall not discriminate on the basis of political ideology, race, color, national and ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or preference, gender, or age in its membership, activities, and projects. UTK MSA & the University of Tennessee shall not tolerate harassment of any kind. In accordance with this policy of non-discrimination, UTK MSA shall not discriminate on the basis of any individual's association with Islam in the organization's membership, activities, and projects. Fulfillment of and dedication to UTK MSA's mission does not require any level of personal identification or adherence to the Islamic faith, and the organization shall not discriminate on that basis.

Article 5: Officers

Any member of UTK MSA can become an officer. Officers shall be elected annually in the Spring semester by a majority vote of the membership and shall take office thirty (30) days prior to the end of the semester. The officers of this organization and their basic duties follow.

President and/or Co-President(s)

- Calls and presides over official meetings of the organization
- Acts as the tie-breaking vote in matters of business
- Maintains organization in good standing with the University
- Communication with the Office of Student Activities and Facilities and/or other interested

Vice-President

- Serves as an ex-officio member of any committee that is created
- Coordinates major events and speakers
- Aids in the responsibilities of the President and assumes those in case of the President's absence or failure to fulfill them otherwise.

Treasurer

- Maintains accurate ledger and financial records
- Approves all expenditures from the organization financial account
- Approves (i.e. signs) all requests for allocations from third-party sources
- Delivers a financial report to the membership once a semester in Fall and Spring

Secretary

- Maintains the official roster of the organization
- Records minutes of all official meetings of the organization

Article 6: Advisor

A faculty or staff member of University of Tennessee shall be selected by the executive board and serve as the organization advisor. The advisor shall be an ex-officio member of the organization and all of its committees.

Advisor duties:

- Interpret University policy for organization
- Direct membership to appropriate campus resources to accomplish organization goals
- Act as the official university contact in matters of policy violation
- An educational advisor may also be either appointed by the executive board, to deal with all matters relating to education. The advisor shall be an ex-officio member of the organization and all of its committees.

Article 7: Removal of Officers

Officers may be removed with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general body cast by ballot. The officer in question must be notified of the vote of removal at least one (1) week in advance and shall have the opportunity to speak before the general body prior to the vote.

Article 8: Executive board

The executive board of UTK MSA shall be composed of the organization officers, the advisor, and any appointees deemed appropriate by the President. The executive board shall generate and present recommendations to membership for approval that effect and promote the mission of the organization.

Article 9: Procedural Meetings

General body meetings shall be organized at least once per semester and at the discretion of the President at other times at an on-campus venue. The meeting shall be publicized to the general membership at least one (1) week in advance. During general body meetings, quorum shall consist of all members in attendance. In addition to general body meetings, UTK MSA executive board shall meet on a regular basis, at least monthly, during the Fall and Spring academic semesters and at the discretion of the President at other times at an on-campus venue. During board meetings, all of UTK MSA's powers as a deliberative assembly shall be delegated to the executive board as a whole. The executive board is authorized to adopt any motion so long as it does not limit or infringe upon powers of the general body explicitly laid out in the constitution or existing by-laws.

Article 10: Committees

Committees of the organization shall be created from time-to-time by the executive board in order to organize and distribute the workload of the organization. Committees shall be governed by by-law and shall not have authority over the executive board or the general body.

Article 11: Elections

Elections must be openly publicized for at least two (2) weeks and open to the members of the organization. Elections shall be structured by the Election of Officers by-law. The election process will be formalized and be free of charge. Elections will be held in the first week of April to ensure plenty of time for transition from the old executive board to the new, and will abide by the following guidelines:

- Nominations for all vacant positions will be taken from the general body members and executive board through online ballot. Self-nominations will be accepted. Recipients have the opportunity to accept or reject nominations if they so choose.
- All executive positions will be up for election each year. Previous board members are free to run for their positions again. Previous board members will also be allowed to run for a different position for the following year.
- A General Body Meeting will be held for board member elections, and a ballot with the finalized candidates for election will be made available to the general body at least a week in advance of elections.
- To win, a candidate must capture a majority of the vote.
- All elected positions must be approved and established a month prior to elections, to allow fair and sufficient time for nominations. No impromptu positions may be created once a nomination form has been sent out to the general body.

Article 12: Succession

In the case that any member of the executive board must leave his or her post during the term of office, succession will result in the order of board members as mentioned in Article Five. No board member will be forced into a position. In the event that a position cannot be filled by succession, the board may agree on another board member to fill the vacancy, given that that board member's current position ranks lower on the current list contained in Article Five. If no one on the executive board is able to fill the gap, the board may find someone in the general body to appoint. Also, if agreed upon by the board, a position may be merged into the responsibilities of another.

Article 13: Amendment

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing by any member and must obtain approval from EITHER two-thirds (2/3) of the entire executive board OR a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general body.